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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
SCIENCES (NIEHS), NIH**

**WORKER EDUCATION &
TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Brownfields Minority Worker
Training Program**

**Awardee: Laborers-AGC Education and
Training Fund (Laborers-AGC)
Grant Number: U45 ES06174**

BACKGROUND

As part of the Department of Health and Human Services commitment to the Brownfields National Partnership Agenda, the NIEHS has provided support for the establishment of the Brownfields Minority Worker Training Programs targeting the Showcase Communities. The strategy of this initiative is to broaden the NIEHS Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP) to include a new component on Brownfields Worker Training, addressing the need for a more comprehensive training program to foster economic and environmental restoration of the identified brownfield sites.

The NIEHS has awarded, through an interagency agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), \$3 Million for the development of brownfields environmental job training programs targeting people of color at 11 of the 16 Brownfields Showcase Communities. The 11 Communities are Lowell, MA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, MO; Baltimore, MD; Eastward Ho!, FL; Dallas, TX; Los Angeles, CA; East Palo Alto, CA; Portland, OR; St. Paul, MN; and Salt Lake City, UT.

SUMMARY

The Laborers-AGC Education and Training has developed a program to train people of color residents of the Lowell, MA Brownfields Showcase Community. For more information on this Brownfields Showcase Community program, refer to the EPA website at

<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/showcase.htm>.

The goals of the program are to provide participants with the skills necessary to work successfully on or near the Brownfield sites and provide a model for other training programs and communities. Laborers-AGC will train 20 students from the Lowell, MA community. The students will be recruited from the large Southeast Asian and Latino community in Lowell. The Laborers-AGC are collaborating with several consortium members including L-AGC Hopkinton, MA training center, University of Massachusetts at Lowell (UMASS), Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA), Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA) and the Lowell Adult Education Center (LAEC). The program is intended to build the capacity of community organizations in Lowell to provide leadership on environmental issues and to play a greater role in eliminating chemical hazards in their communities.

TRAINING COMPONENTS

All students will receive introductory Job Preparation/Like Skills training for one week. In this session, students will learn appropriate job behavior and develop a sense of self-confidence in their abilities. The strength of this application is the inclusion of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell as a subgrantee providing the majority of the administration and local planning for the program. UMASS has a strong connection to the Lowell community and to the city of Lowell, MA. UMASS has contracted with the Coalition for a Better Acre, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association and the

Lowell Adult Education Center to provide the necessary like skills, recruitment, and remedial education for the participants. UMASS will provide the environmental technician training and the 40 hour Hazardous Waste Worker Training.

A major strength of this program is the two track-training programs in both construction and environmental technician training. Five to six students will participate in the environmental technician program that will be administered by UMASS. The students can

choose career training in either construction or environmental technician training. L-AGC will provide the bulk of the construction skills. All students will take the Environmental Abatement Training with UMASS and Laborers-AGC collaboratively offering these courses. TRC Environmental, the consulting firm advising the City of Lowell, will conduct air monitoring training. Each student will receive certifications upon completing each course to enable them to work at hazardous waste, asbestos, and lead sites.

Construction Skills Track

Subjects	Provider
Recruitment, Screening/Intake, Like Skills Supportive Services and Case Management	➤ CBE
Basic Reading, Communication, and Math	➤ Lowell Adult Education
Community Awareness Training	➤ CMAA
ESL-English as a Second Language	➤ CMAA
Computer Skills	➤ CMAA
Field Trips and Guest Speakers	➤ UMASS Lowell
General Construction (80 hours)	➤ Laborers-AGC Hopkinton Center
Lead Abatement (40 hours)	➤ Laborers-AGC Hopkinton Center
Asbestos Abatement (40 hours)	➤ Laborers-AGC Hopkinton Center

Environmental Technician Track

Subjects	Provider
Recruitment, Screening/Intake, Like Skills Supportive Services and Case Management	➤ CBE
Basic Reading, Communication, and Math	➤ Lowell Adult Education
Community Awareness Training	➤ CMAA
ESL-English as a Second Language	➤ CMAA
Computer Skills	➤ CMAA
Field Trips and Guest Speakers	➤ UMASS Lowell
Hazardous Waste Concerns	➤ UMASS Lowell
Introduction to Environmental Chemistry	➤ UMASS Lowell
Environmental Math	➤ UMASS Lowell
Sampling Lab	➤ UMASS Lowell
Industrial Hygiene Sampling Lab	➤ UMASS Lowell
Environmental Industrial Hygiene Sampling	➤ UMASS Lowell

Environmental Abatement Training

Subjects	Provider
Hazardous Waste Worker	➤ UMASS
General Construction (80 hours)	➤ Laborers-AGC Hopkinton Center
Lead Abatement (40 hours)	➤ Laborers-AGC Hopkinton Center
Asbestos Abatement (40 hours)	➤ Laborers-AGC Hopkinton Center
Air Monitoring	➤ TRC Environmental

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Laborers-AGC has provided this type of training through the MWTP since 1995 in San Francisco, CA and Cleveland, OH. Through their consortium with Cuyahoga Community College, San Francisco State University, Ella Hill Hutch Community Center, Mission Hiring Hall, Young Community Developers and Chinese for

Affirmative Action, they have successfully training 123 minority youth over the past three years. They have established a track record of 60% job placement with a strong focus on building community capacity around training. For more information about the MWTP visit the NIEHS web site at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/mwtp.htm>.

For more information about this program, please contact the following:

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